

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING
TYLER-JAMISON ON HER RE-
TIREMENT

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my friend Berlinda Tyler-Jamison on her retirement from UnityPoint Health-Trinity after 28 years. During her time at UnityPoint she created programs like "Stylin' Against Breast Cancer" and the "Trinity Golf Tournament," which annually raise tens of thousands of dollars for their important causes.

Berlinda's hard work has extended beyond her professional career. She dedicates her time to the Rock Island community as the president of the county branch of the NAACP and has served on the Rock Island Planning Commission as well as on the boards for MetroLINK and Arrowhead Ranch.

Over the years, Berlinda's commitment to creating a more diverse and welcoming community has never faltered. Even now as she prepares for this next part of her life, she plans to remain active and involved in bettering our community in Rock Island County. Her passion for serving others is truly outstanding.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Berlinda for everything she has given the Rock Island community and congratulate her on her well-deserved retirement. I have faith that her future endeavors will be successful.

THE SONGS OF THE FLAG ORGANIZATION (SOTF)—A RESOURCE FOR BURN SURVIVORS

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of THE SONS OF THE FLAG organization, which was founded in Dallas, Texas by Ryan "Birdman" Parrot in 2012. Parrot, a Navy SEAL who served 8 years as a member of SEAL Team 7 completed 3 tours in Iraq before being assigned to advanced Training Command. While riding in a Humvee, he and his team were hit by an IED with most of his crew sustaining life threatening burn injuries. Upon retirement he moved to Dallas, Texas, and was inspired by Ret. Capt Sam Brown's strength and courage despite all his debilitating scarring. Not happy with the advancements in treatment for burns compared to the advancement of prosthetics he founded this organization to help: military, first responders, and civilian burn survivors. SOTF is bringing together community leaders, renowned burn surgeons, experienced military, dedicated first responders, and purposeful citizens to com-

plete our mission. We partnered with Parkland Hospital in Dallas, Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, and Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. I submit this poem penned in their honor by Albert Carey Caswell.

SO PROUDLY WE WAVE

(By Albert Carey Caswell)

This is war
There's another battle to be waged
There are so many magnificent heroes who
need our help this day
And just like them,
the words no surrender we all say
As so proudly to them we wave
On this very day
So high up above
All in their love
For all of those and what they gave
Whether, on battlefields of honor bright
Or First Responders and Fire Fighters who
into infernos go this night
And all of those citizens so left to fight
The scars of a Burn Survivor's plight
For beauty is but skin deep
As it's all in our souls where we so keep
All of our faith and courage,
that we all so need to find the will to dig in
deep
Is that but not the beauty we all seek?
To so fight for their cause
The eyes of Texas are upon us,
and we shall not pause
Carried all in our hearts,
for this Old Red, White, and Blue so very
deep
Taking the charge
For advancements,
for all of those heroes who lives now loom so
very large

Who upon battlefields of honor bright
Or rushing into burning buildings with
hearts of courage full to bring their
light
Who are in the business of saving lives
Whether for our brothers and sisters to their
left,

to their right
Or in burning buildings oh what heroic
sights

To somehow repay them for all of their sac-
rifice

For we will help champion your battle for
your victory,

over this fight
And help you one and all,
to get on with your most magnificent of all
lives

Where you go

We go

We've got your six,
for this is all that you need to know

Just like the American flag,
you too should be treated with such honor
so

They Gave,
now it's time for us To Give
Just like The American flag,
you too so proudly wave in all you did
And remember no matter how dark the
night,

The Sons of Flag have got your six,
for all you heroes whose hearts burn bright

TRIBUTE TO VIRGINIA CARMODY

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Virginia Carmody to the community of Onondaga County, New York. A resident of Onondaga Hill, Mrs. Carmody has served as the Executive Director of the Literacy Coalition of Onondaga County for over 6 years. In her role as Executive Director, Mrs. Carmody has established and led expansive literacy programs in Onondaga County, working towards the goal of complete literacy in the County.

In 2010, Mrs. Carmody oversaw the implementation of the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library program in the City of Syracuse, New York. The program has provided over 68,000 free books to over 4,500 children in the city. In addition, Mrs. Carmody manages adult literacy initiatives, such as an adult literacy database.

Due to the work of the Literacy Coalition of Onondaga County promoting early reading, spearheaded by Mrs. Carmody, the National Campaign for Grade-Level Reading recognized Syracuse as one of 38 municipalities across the country, as a 2013 Pacesetter.

Mrs. Carmody previously served for over 26 years in the Congressional offices of three New York Representatives. Mrs. Carmody serves on the boards of Syracuse 20/20, the Onondaga Citizens League, Visions for Change, and is a member of the Rotary Club of Syracuse. She holds a Master of Public Administration degree from American University and a Bachelor of Arts and Sciences degree in Elementary Education from the College of St. Rose. She is supported by her husband, Mitch and two children, Riley and Christina.

Virginia Carmody has worked fervently to improve literacy in Onondaga County through community engagement. I am proud to congratulate Mrs. Carmody in her deserving receipt of the Women Who Make America Award.

RECOGNIZING KIDNEY DAY AT
THE MISSOURI STATE CAPITOL

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in acknowledging Kidney Day at the Missouri State Capitol on Thursday, March 5, 2015. This important day is supported by the Missouri Kidney Program and the National Kidney Foundation.

The mission of the Missouri Kidney Program is to help meet the educational needs, and to promote the physical and mental well-being of

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